

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Without prejudice or disclaimer, the following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing adhesion between silica and epoxy resin, comprising:

coating the surface of said silica by plasma polymerization coating with a monomer selected from the group consisting of 1,3-diaminopropane, allylamine, pyrrole, 1,2-epoxy-5-hexene, and allylmercaptan, and allylalcohol, wherein said plasma polymerization coating is effective to enhance the adhesive strength between said silica and said epoxy resin,

and combining said coated silica with said epoxy resin to form an epoxy molding compound (EMC).

2. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing adhesion between silica and epoxy resin by surface modifying silica by plasma polymerization coating, comprising the steps of:

1) charging said silica into a plasma polymerization reactor, followed by vacuuming to 1×10^{-3} torr;

2) introducing a monomer into said reactor;

3) rotating said reactor at from 1 to 50 rpm, with the conditions comprising a plasma power of 10 to 40 W, a gas pressure of 40 to 50 mtorr, and a treatment time of 20 to 40 seconds,

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wherein said silica has an average diameter of 25-35 µm; said monomer is selected from the group consisting of 1,3-diaminopropane, allylamine, pyrrole, 1,2-epoxy-5-hexene, and allylmercaptan, and allylalcohol, and said plasma polymerization coating is effective to enhance the adhesive strength between said silica and said epoxy resin; and

4) combining said surface modified silica and said epoxy resin to form an epoxy molding compound (EMC).

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said epoxy resin is a mixture comprising epoxy resin, hardener, and promoter.

6. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said combining comprises forming said coated silica and said epoxy into a homogeneous mixture.

7. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 6, further comprising introducing said homogeneous mixture into a mold.

8. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 7, wherein said mold is a silicone rubber mold.

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9. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said plasma polymerization coating is effective to enhance the flexural strength of said epoxy molding compound.

10. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 2, wherein said epoxy resin is a mixture comprising epoxy resin, hardener, and promoter.

11. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 2, wherein said combining comprises charging said coated silica into an epoxy resin, and forming said coated silica and said epoxy resin into a homogeneous mixture.

12. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 11, further comprising introducing said homogeneous mixture into a mold.

13. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 12, wherein said mold is a silicone rubber mold.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 2, wherein said plasma polymerization coating is effective to enhance the flexural strength of said epoxy molding compound.

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